

March 1, 2021

To: Members of the Health Policy Committee  
From: Americans for Tax Reform

Re: Support House Bill 4356

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and our supporters across Michigan, **I urge you to support House Bill 4356, legislation that would allow corrective eyewear prescriptions to be renewed via telemedicine.** If implemented, **this reform would expand access to and reduce the costs of vision care services in Michigan, making it a huge win for patients, consumers, and taxpayers.**

Due to an arcane law, Michiganders are not able to benefit from innovative technologies in vision care that now allow residents in ## other states to renew their corrective eyewear prescriptions online through telemedicine. Instead, patients across Michigan must first take off of work or school and then take on the costs and complications of traveling to a doctor's office in order to have their prescription renewed.

In addition to restricting access, that protectionist law, which was put in place by incumbent providers to shut out competition, also makes corrective eyewear prescription renewal less affordable. While online vision tests cost as low as \$20, in-person eye exams, which patients in Michigan have no choice but to use, cost an average of \$185.

HB 4356 would address these problems by tearing down that dated barrier to vision care. This reform, which would make corrective eyewear prescription renewal more accessible and affordable for all Michigan residents, would be particularly beneficial for lower income families, those living in rural areas, and for all people between ages 18 and 50, the segment of the population whose prescriptions change very little and do not require an office visit every year simply to have their prescription renewed.

**Along with the many benefits this reform would bring to individuals, HB 4356 could also lead to taxpayer savings.** Each year, the state of Michigan spends taxpayer dollars on eyecare services for government employees and those who receive medical benefits from publicly funded programs. Costs could be drastically lowered if the use of telemedicine for prescription renewal were a more accessible option.

**ATR supports HB 4356 and urges you to vote YES.** For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Margaret Mire, ATR's state affairs manager, at [mmire@atr.org](mailto:mmire@atr.org).

Sincerely,



Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

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